



PRESS RELEASE

USS KITTY HAWK (CV 63)
Public Affairs Office
FPO AP 96634-2770

E-mail: pao@kitty-hawk.navy.mil
Web: www.kittyhawk.navy.mil



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Kitty Hawk departs Thailand

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Roob, Kitty Hawk public affairs

USS KITTY HAWK, At sea— USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) departed Laem Chabang, Thailand, Sept. 6, ending a four-day visit to the port south of Bangkok.

Kitty Hawk hosted a reception for more than 600 guests during its first night and several hundred visitors toured the ship over the next three days.

While Thai citizens toured Kitty Hawk, Sailors toured the Southeast Asian nation. Kitty Hawk's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation division organized 29 tours for 800 Sailors, including trips to Bangkok and the Elephant Village in Pattaya.

"I went on an overnight tour to Bangkok," said Lt. Joseph Stastny, Kitty Hawk's industrial hygiene officer. "We saw the Temple of the Golden Buddha. It was a really nice tour with food and a hotel room included."

MWR also coordinated hotel room rentals for Kitty Hawk Sailors, with sales funneling more than \$57,000 into Thailand's economy.

More than 160 Sailors from Kitty Hawk and Carrier Air Wing 5 spent their liberty helping out with six different community service projects, ranging from the painting of a schoolhouse to spending time with HIV-positive children.

"We want to show that we're here for more than just to have fun," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW) Oliver Brown, one of the 19 Sailors who volunteered to visit the HIV-positive children. "It was rewarding to see the smiles on their faces when they saw we were there for them."

The Kitty Hawk Strike Group is the largest carrier strike group in the Navy and is on the third month of its summer deployment, which began in June. Also pulling in with Kitty Hawk was the cruiser USS Cowpens (CG 63) and guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen (DDG 82).

The strike group includes the Kitty Hawk, the aircraft squadrons and staff of Carrier Air Wing 5, the guided-missile cruisers USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and Cowpens, and Destroyer Squadron 15 staff. The group's ships and destroyer squadron staff are based at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, and the air wing and staff are based at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

To find more news about the Kitty Hawk Strike Group, visit the Navy NewsStand at www.news.navy.mil/local/cv63/.